



DSCA | MISSION SETS

The mission of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) is wide-ranging, encompassing Defense Trade and Arms Transfers, Institutional Capacity Building, International Military Training and Education, Humanitarian Assistance, and Security Cooperation Workforce Development. Since its inception in 1971, DSCA has been relied upon to lead the U.S. Security Cooperation enterprise to help solve complex U.S. defense and foreign policy challenges.



Defense Trade and Arms Transfers

Defense trade and arms transfers serve as the primary reason behind DSCA's inception and remain a critical function. Over the years, this mission set has transformed and expanded as a foreign policy tool of first resort, with programs authorized by the Department of State, executed by the Department of Defense (DoD), and informed by Congressional legislation and oversight.

DSCA defines defense trade and arms transfers as the transfer of defense articles and services via sale, lease or grant, in furtherance of national security and foreign policy objectives. This includes the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program, as well as other programs such as Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and Excess Defense Articles (EDA), specifically designed to address and expedite U.S. ally and partner nation urgent or emerging requirements or capability gaps.

The Arms Export Control Act of 1976 provides current legal authority and general rules for conducting FMS, commercial sales of defense articles, defense services, and training. FMS sales to U.S. ally and partner nations averaged about \$2 billion per year throughout the 1960s. In Fiscal Year 2020, the United States sold \$50.78 billion in defense articles and services, with a three-year rolling average of \$54 billion.

Defense trade and arms transfers, as well as related programs, have grown larger and more complex in the aftermath of World War II, aligned to emerging threats and policies. However, the overall rationale remains the same: the development and execution of effective and enduring Security Cooperation programs and partnerships that enable the United States and its allies and partners to respond to shared challenges.



Institutional Capacity Building

Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) programs overseen by DSCA encompass U.S. Security Cooperation activities that directly support U.S. ally and partner nation efforts to improve security sector governance and core management competencies necessary to effectively and responsibly achieve shared security objectives.

ICB has become an increasingly important aspect of the U.S. approach to Security Cooperation, posturing U.S. allies and partner nations to be successful in fulfilling a mutually-agreed upon security role through the strengthening of their policy and strategy; legal authorities and frameworks; processes and management systems; resourcing systems; doctrine, or operational concepts; and command and control of their forces.

Applying a full-spectrum approach is a strategic advantage for DoD. This approach builds effective alliances and partnerships to achieve shared results, while promoting American values and respect for international norms. These include the core values of respect for human rights, the rule of law and law of armed conflict, democratic principles, civilian control of the military and civil-military relations, civilian harm mitigation, and anti-corruption.

ICB, as a tool of U.S. Security Cooperation, is core to enabling preparedness, deterring threats, and prevailing in the renewed era of strategic competition.



International Military Training and Education

International military training and education programs are an important element of U.S. Security Cooperation relationships, strengthening our alliances and attracting new partners. The United States has offered both skill-focused training and college - and graduate-level education to international military education students for more than 50 years. This function was one of the original tasks overseen by DSCA at its inception and remains a core component of the Agency's work today.

Of the 78,000 foreign military students trained annually by the United States, approximately 22,000 received that training in the United States. Conducted at U.S. military institutions, these programs also enable cultural exchanges with local communities and exposure to U.S. history while those students attend courses.

DSCA's work in International Military Training and Education supports and builds intellectual interoperability between the United States and its allies and partner nations. These programs are foundational to creating and maintaining long-term relationships with personnel who often become future leaders and can direct access and influence at the highest levels of their nation's military decision-making.





Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

Humanitarian Assistance (HA) programs support U.S. military forces by promoting peace and stability in regions of tension and by providing aid and relief in the aftermath of natural or manmade disasters. DoD conducts HA to relieve or reduce endemic conditions such as human suffering, disease, hunger, privation, and the adverse effects of unexploded explosive ordnance, particularly in regions where humanitarian needs may pose major challenges to stability, prosperity, and respect for universal human values.

DSCA's Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief, and Mine Action team provides oversight and executes program management over DoD HA activities. These programs are funded by the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid (OHDACA) appropriation, first created in 1996. OHDACA funding enables five HA activities that equip, train, and provide essential services to U.S. ally and partner nations in need.

The Humanitarian Assistance, Humanitarian Mine Action, Excess Property, and Humanitarian Assistance Transportation programs build the capacity of U.S. ally and partner nation governments to provide essential humanitarian services. Foreign Disaster Relief activities support the broader U.S. government immediate response to international disasters by providing DoD-unique capabilities that deliver life-saving assistance. Ultimately, OHDACA-funded activities aim to save lives, avert crises, and strengthen U.S. Security Cooperation relationships with U.S. allies and partner nations.

The DoD HA programs are a unique U.S. Security Cooperation tool enabling Geographic Combatant Commanders to engage with ally and partner nation civilian authorities, and build ally and partner nation capacity to provide essential humanitarian services to their populations, which strengthen DoD alliances with ally and partner nation governments and populations.



Defense Security Cooperation University/ Workforce Development

To meet the current and future global U.S. Security Cooperation mission, the Defense Security Cooperation University (DSCU), founded in September 2019, delivers the education, training, research, and workforce analysis required to develop an agile, certified, and experienced U.S. Security Cooperation workforce. Additionally, DSCU implements Institutional Capacity Building, Security Cooperation education, and related programs and initiatives with U.S. allies and partner nations. DSCU is DoD's Center of Excellence for Security Cooperation education and aspires to be the leading academic institution for Security Cooperation knowledge and practice.

DSCU is comprised of the International School for Education and Advising, which encompasses the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies (DIILS) in Newport, RI; the Institute for Security Governance (ISG) in Monterey, CA; the School of Security

Cooperation Studies, which supports DSCA's mission of training, educating, and providing for the long-term development of the Security Cooperation workforce; and the Office of the Provost and Enterprise Support, which provides key university functions to facilitate the delivery of Security Cooperation workforce education and training, advances key workforce initiatives, and leads programs that improve U.S. ally and partner nation capabilities.

The DSCU team of teams works across functional areas to create synergies that benefit students, strategic partners, and other external stakeholders. An agile mindset and desire to innovate in response to the real-world challenges and requirements of those the University serves characterizes the work DSCU performs in collaboration with DSCA.



**DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY**

Security Through Global Partnerships